

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 SY-05 SIL-01 LAB-04 AID-05

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /072 W

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R 221210Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0180

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINVPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSMACTHAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 17676

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, ELAB, TH

SUBJ: THAI SECURITY GUARD STRIKE

REF: (A) BANGKOK 16511 (B) BANGKOK 16072

SUMMARY: IN SPITE OF A CONTINUING SERIES OF MEETINGS BETWEEN STRIKING THAI SECURITY GUARDS AND ELEMENTS OF THE RTG, THE TSG STRIKE, NOW NEARING THE END OF ITS THIRD MONTH, REMAINS AT AN IMPASSE. RTG, BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY, INCREASINGLY LOOK TO USG TO BAIL THEM OUT FINANCIALLY, OR TO TAKE THE POLITICAL FLACK FOR THE STALEMATE. A NEW, VIOLENT ELEMENT WAS ADDED TO THE EQUATION BY THE TSG WITH THE KIDNAPPING AND REPORTED BEATING OF THREE PERSONS ON 20 AUGUST, AND UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF TWO LATER SEIZURES OF SUPREME COMMAND HEADQUARTERS (FORWARD) PERSONNEL. END SUMMARY.

WQM EVENTS OF THE PAST TWO WEEKS INDICATE A HARDENING OF LINE BY THE TSG STRIKERS BOLSTERED BY SUPPORT FROM MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND WAFLING BY RTG
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OFFICIALS. STRIKERS CONTINUE TO PRESS

FOR UNREASONABLE, UNSUPPORTABLE BENEFITS FAR BEYOND THOSE OF ANY COMPARABLE THAI PUBLIC OR PRIVATE EMPLOYEE. RTG OFFICIALS, ONCE SUPPORTIVE OF THE USG POSITION, ARE NOW ATTEMPTING PASS THE ONUS FOR NON-RESOLUTION TO US IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO PROTECT THEIR OWN FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL NEEDS. WE INTEND TO RESIST ALL FURTHER EFFORTS BY THE THAI GOVERNMENT TO EXTRACT MORE ASSISTANCE THAN WE OFFERED IN RESPONSE TO KHUKRIT'S APPEAL, OR TO INVOLVE US IN DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE STRIKING GUARDS.

2. IN THE MEANTIME, THE STRIKERS, NOW ENCAMPED OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT HOUSE, HAVE BEGUN TO AUGMENT THEIR CAMPAIGN WITH VIOLENCE. IN RETALIATION FOR AN RTG PROGRAM TO BEGIN PAYING COMPENSATION TO INDIVIDUAL STRIKERS BEFORE A FINAL AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED (A STRIKE-BREAKING TACTIC THE GUARDS' LEADER, BANKIT THONG-OUAN, CLAIMS WAS UNDERMINING THE GUARDS MORALE), THREE PERSONS VARIOUSLY DESCRIBED AS LABOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, FORMER GUARDS OR SOME COMBINATION THEREOF, WERE KIDNAPPED, BEATEN, AND HELD HOSTAGE ON 20 AUGUST. THE FOLLOWING DAY THE GOVERNMENT AGREED TO HALT ALL INDIVIDUAL PAYMENTS. THE HOSTAGES WERE SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED. AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT STATES THAT TWO SUPREME COMMAND HEADQUARTERS PERSONNEL ARE NOW BEING HELD FOR AN UNSPECIFIED REASON.

3. IN THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT, TODAY'S (NATION, AUGUST 22) PRESS REPORTS THAT THE RTG HAS SIGNED AN AGREEMENT APPROVING PAYMENT FOR OVER 2,000 GUARDS. ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS, THE PAYMENTS, TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY, COVER SEVERANCE PAY, 75 PERCENT STRIKE PAY, AND REFUND OF DEPOSIT MONEY, PLUS INTEREST. IN ADDITION, STRIKERS WILL RECEIVE AN EXTRA 10 PERCENT STRIKE

PAY (I.E., TOTAL OF 85 PERCENT INSTEAD OF 75 PERCENT) AND WELFARE PAY COMPUTED AT ONE MONTH'S SALARY FOR EACH YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT "IF THE GOVERNMENT CAN SECURE IT FROM THE U.S. AUTHORITIES."

4. IF APPROACHED BY RTG WE DO NOT PROPOSE TO GO BEYOND WHAT
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WE HAVE ALREADY OFFERED.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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